

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KUALA 04870 300940Z
ACTION HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 INSE-00 /016 W
-----011377 300945Z /12

O 300907Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
TO /SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4711
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
AMCONSUL HONG KONG PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY MANILA PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
AMCONSUL FUKUOKA PRIORITY
AMCONSUL OSADA
CINCPAC HONOLULU PRIORITY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KUALA LUMPUR 4870

E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SREF
SUBJ: NGUYEN THANH VINH
REF: STATE 134967

1. REFUGEE OPERATIONS PERSONNEL RECENTLY RETURNED FROM VISITS
TO ALL BOAT REFUGEE CAMPS IN MALAYSIA. REPORT NO RECORD OF
SUBJECT REFUGEES.

2. DUE TO EXTREMELY HEAVY INFLOW OF BOAT REFUGEES, HOWEVER,
IT IS UNLIKELY THAT MR. VINH AND FAMILY WOULD HAVE BEEN
RECORDED ON U.S. EMBASSY REFUGEE ROLLS IF THEY ARRIVED
WITHIN LAST EIGHT DAYS. POST IS FOLLOWING-UP ENQUIRIES AS
TO SUBJECT REFUGEES' WHEREABOUTS WITH UNHCR, MALAYSIAN RED
CRESCENT, AND AUSTRALIAN IMMIGRATION REPRESENTATIVES, ALL
OF WHOM ARE POSTED AT MALAYSIAN CAMPS WHERE SUBJECTS
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MOST LIKELY TO SEEK REFUGE.

3. RIGS ARE OF COURSE OWNED BY PETRONAS, THE MALAYSIAN
GOVERNMENT'S NATIONAL OIL COMPANY, AND OPERATED UNDER
CONTRACT BY EXXON. ACCORDING TO EXXON OFFICIALS, RIG
PERSONNEL ARE CONSTRAINED BY MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES
FROM TAKING REFUGEES ABOARD OR GIVING DIRECTIONS TO

MALAYSIA. HOWEVER, HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE IS GIVEN TO ARRIVING REFUGEES BOATS, AND RIG PERSONNEL HAVE ASSISTED MORE THAN 1,000 REFUGEES SO FAR IN TERMS OF FOOD, WATER, FUEL MEDICAL SUPPLIES AND ASSISTANCE, MAPS, BOAT REPAIRS, AND OTHER ITEMS TO ENBALE THEM TO CONTINUE JOURNEY. IN ONE INSTANCE LAST MONTH WHERE REFUGEES BOARDED SHIP ANCHORED AT RIG AND REFUSED TO LEAVE, MALAYSIA AUTHORITIES WERE INFORMED AND MALAYSIAN NAVY ARRIVED TO TAKE THEM OFF RIG AND BRING THEM TO KUALA TRENGGANY, WHERE THEY WERE ADMITTED TO PULAU BESAR CAMP.

4. IT WOULD APPEAR THAT RIG PERSONNEL AND MALAYSIAN AUTHORITIES ARE HANDLING THIS VERY DIFFICULT PROBLEM IN AS REASONABLE AND HUMANITARIAN A FASHION AS POSSIBLE UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES. WE WILL OF COURSE CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE PROPER TREATMENTBY BOTH GROUPS. ROSEHTHAL

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEES, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KUALA04870
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780225-0777
Format: TEL
From: KUALA LUMPUR
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t1978058/aaaaagnf.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 7a972aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION HA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 134967
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2753097
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NGUEYN THANH VINH
TAGS: SREF, VM, (NGUEYN THANH VINH)
To: STATE BANGKOK
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/7a972aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014